



**GOOD ROADS**

New Kind of Reciprocity.

WASHINGTON correspondent of one of the great dailies, feeling "all run down" as a result of vain attempts to manufacture news about Professor Langley's "buzzard," recently concluded to go into the rural districts of Maryland to recuperate. After a few days of rest, his journalistic instinct reasserted itself, and he decided it would be an amusing experience to go out and interview some of the farmers. Securing a pad, he started up the road sharpening his pencil and whistling one of Sousa's latest marches. Before long he saw a farmer cutting corn in a field alongside the road. Climbing the rail fence, he hailed the farmer pleasantly, and after a few remarks about the weather and the crops, explained his errand.

"Want to interview me, eh?" said the farmer. "I never had any experience givin' interviews, but if your heart is set on it, go ahead. What do you want me to talk about?"

"Well," said the reporter, scratching his nose reflectively, "suppose you give me your views on reciprocity."

"Couldn't have suited me better for a subject, Mister. The fact is, I've been thinkin' a good deal about reciprocity, lately. I believe in it. I don't mean reciprocity with Cuba or Canada, although that may all be very well in its place. What I want to see is reciprocity right here in the United States. I think reciprocity, like charity, should begin at home. I want the fellows who have been enjoying the blessings for a good many years to reciprocate a little with the farmers."

"What do you propose?" asked the wielder of the pencil, who began to see that he was getting more than he expected.

"Well," said the farmer, "I want some plan adopted by which a part of the revenue collected will get back to the rural districts. I understand there's a fellow down there in Congress who has introduced a bill that will do the business. I mean that bill providin' for the Government to aid in improvin' the roads in the rural districts. That would be a great blessing, not only to the farmers, but to everybody. Talk about developin' resources! I'd like to know what would do more to develop this country than buildin' good roads. If this plan was adopted, a few millions of the taxes the farmers pay would come back to them, and there couldn't be no charge of special privilege, either, for the money would be spent for public improvement, and would benefit all sections and all classes. Now I want to see the city people who have been protected so long turn in and help the farmers get that law passed. That's the kind of reciprocity I believe in."

How much more the farmer might have said the reporter will never know, for the interview was just then interrupted by a blast from the dinner horn.

**Unanimous For Good Roads.**

Mr. Chas. F. Saylor, special agent of the Government for the investigation of the sugar industry, who has traveled through nearly all the Northern and Western States in the prosecution of his work, recently expressed the results of his observations as follows:

"Probably no other subject of interest to the rural population is receiving more attention throughout the Nation than that of road improvement. One of the fundamental means of society is a ready means of communication. The experiment stations of the country are now engaged in experimental work and actual demonstration with a view to stimulating the public mind and promoting the best and cheapest systems of good road building with local material. State Legislatures are enacting better laws, and in some cases the principle of State aid has been adopted. The Federal Government has established an Office of Public Road Inquiries in the Department of Agriculture. Literature has been prepared and distributed for the education of the people on this subject."

"There is nothing that will work so effectively for good roads as necessity, 'the mother of invention.' When a factory is established farmers at once discover the necessity of good roads. Agitation begins, public meetings are held, and every public highway becomes the object of solicitous attention. It is found that the farmer requires at least four horses if he is to accomplish the best results in the saving of time and expense. Neighbors talk over road improvement and the idea becomes infectious. A public meeting is called, public roads are discussed, and an organization is effected which goes to work for the improvement of the roads."

Reports from all sections indicate that the question of road improvement is one of the most popular subjects of discussion in farmers' meetings of all

kinds, and State and National aid are being generally endorsed. The farmers are beginning to see that they have not received their share of attention from the National Government, and to demand substantial recognition in the way of Federal aid and co-operation in the improvement of the rural highways.

**Startling Figures.**

The vast amount of money wasted every year in the repairing of bad roads was dwelt upon by many speakers at a recent convention. It was stated that this sum so expended if capitalized would show that the people of the United States are paying the interest annually by bad roads on two and one-half times what the National debt was at the end of the Civil War. These figures, derived from authoritative sources, were startling to many of the delegates and they have determined to go to work and mold a public sentiment that will lead to a reform.

**A FATHER'S LETTER.**

Quaintly Expressed Advice For the Young Sir Philip Sidney.

When Sir Philip Sidney was twelve years old he had made such good progress in his studies that he wrote to his father a letter in Latin and one in French. In those days, we must remember, if one has to read at all, it was necessary to read in Latin, and French was the language of courts, so both tongues were begun early and studied more practically than we nowadays think requisite. But young Philip's letters seem to have greatly pleased his father, for in return Sir Henry wrote a charming letter of advice and counsel, well worth reading in full.

We can quote only a little of it, but advise you to read it all. As to study, he wrote, in the old spelling:

"Apply yowr study to suche howres as yowr discrete master dothe assigne yow, earnestly; and the tyme, I knowe, he will so lycitly (limit) as shal be both sufficient for yowr learnings and saf for yowr health. And mark the sens and the matter that yow read, as well as the wordes. So shal yow both enriche (enrich) yowr tongue with wordes and yowr witte with matter; and judgment will growe as years growyth in yow. \* \* \* Yf yow heare a wise sentence, or an apt phrase, comynte yt to yowr memorye, with respect to the circumstance when yow shal speake yt."

Good advice, it is not. And yet how differently a modern father would write, even if he chose the same ideas to express. Would he not put it more like this?

"You'd better be regular in studying your lessons, for you will find that your teacher knows about what you can do without hurting yourself. Put your mind into it, and try to get the sense out of it, and you'll acquire a good vocabulary as well as learn something. Then the older you grow the more sense you'll have. If you find something well said, store it away, so you can repeat it when it will tell."

Yet the two fathers, be of the sixteenth and he of the twentieth century, mean the same thing.—From "Books and Authors," in St. Nicholas.

**Money in Cornerstones.**

The practice of putting money under the foundation stone of a new building is the shadow of an older tragic custom. The money stands theoretically for the ransom of the human being who by ancient superstition should have been buried in its place.

There was a time when this particular kind of human sacrifice had a vogue extending to most parts of the world. Even in England skeletons have been found imbedded in the bases of castle walls, and there is record of one German fortress at the building of which a child was bought from its mother with hard cash and walled in to the donjon tower, the unnatural mother, according to the story, looking on the while. Effigies of human beings are still used in some parts of Europe as harmless substitutes, and in remoter and more ruthless places the old custom crops out from time to time in all its grim reality. Within the last half century two children, a boy and a girl were, it was reported, walled into a blockhouse by some laborers at Duga, Asiatic Turkey.—New York Times.

**The Man in Love.**

The ordinary man in love is a sorry sight compared with his mistress. He makes his love conventionally and continually disappoints the woman, who wishes to see new lights gleam in his eyes. He is in poignant fear of discovery; he has a horror of ridicule; his one dread is lest he make a fool of himself. But a woman is a cheap chit indeed if she spends a thought on such nonsense; her abandon is superb.—London Queen.

**Beggars in Spain.**

There are 190,227 professional beggars in Spain, of whom 51,948 are women. In some of the cities beggars are licensed to carry on their trade. Seeking alms is recognized as a legitimate business, and the municipality demands a percentage upon the collections. Seville is the only city in the kingdom which forbids begging in the streets.

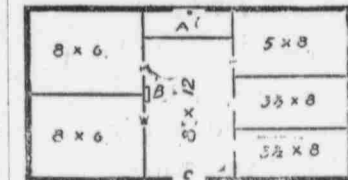
## Farm Topics

### UTILIZATION OF WASTE.

The coarse materials of the manure heap, such as straw, etc., differ greatly from the fresh, solid manure and urine in the heap, as the animal refuse begins to decompose immediately. When the manure and straw are mixed the nitrogen is slowly converted into ammonia, nitric acid being also formed, but when no straw or other materials are used with the manure the ammonia may be formed within forty-eight hours. The straw absorbs the liquid manure and the liquids hasten the decomposition of the straw. The real substance of value in ammonia is the nitrogen that the farmer seeks, whether he buys nitrate of soda, dried blood, sulphate of ammonia, or ground fish, and it is the same substance in the manure—nitrogen—that gives its highest value. While the fertilizers containing nitrogen may also contain other fertilizing elements, yet the high price of nitrogen induces the farmer to endeavor to save all materials on the farm which may assist him in securing it. The mistake made by many farmers is that they succeed admirably in saving the potash and phosphoric acid, but permit loss of the valuable nitrogen because they fail to realize how rapidly the nitrogen (in the form of ammonia) escapes from the heap, and frequently when the farmer opens his heap he finds the manure has become "fire-fanged," or overheated, to such an extent as to render the manure almost worthless, so far as the nitrogen it contained is concerned.

### BUILDING A GRANARY.

On the farm where more or less grain is to be kept for some time a granary is a necessity. The illustration shows the ground plan of a granary that is at once inexpensive and convenient. Select a corner of the barn in which to locate the room and, first of all, put in a floor of matched boards. The sides and ceilings should also be made of matched lumber. The arrangement as shown gives us on one side of the door two bins, each eight by six feet, and on the other side three bins, approximately three and a half feet for two and one five by eight feet. Of course, the bins may be partitioned off to suit the needs of the owner.



PLAN FOR A GRANARY.

Another way would be to have slats nailed to the sides and the partitions built so that they could be moved, in this way having a larger or smaller bin, as desired. C in the cut indicates the door, B a place for holding bags and A a shelf which runs across the end under the window indicated in the space. This shelf will be found handy in many ways, and under it, on the floor, may be kept measures of various sizes. The whole plan is well arranged and the material used to the best possible advantage. If well built it will be rat proof.—Indianapolis News.

### POULTRY NOTES.

Stale bread soaked in milk and squeezed dry is a good feed for young ducks.

Only medium sized eggs should be set. Extra large or small ones are apt to produce deformed chicks.

Turkeys are not so sure to come home as other fowls; hence it is a good plan to mark them in some way.

Destroy the old nests as soon as the hens come off with the chicks. The safest and best plan is to burn all of the old material.

Healthy fowls pick up their food quickly and relish it. When they go at it lazily, pick up a grain or two and then stop, something is wrong.

Stimulants must be avoided. Forcing for heavy egg production will not benefit fertility. By feeding peppers and other condiments, or highly seasoned condition powders, we can increase egg production, but we cripple our chances in getting good, strong offspring. In this craze for big egg records, we fear the matter has been overdone.

If the fowls on the farm had the attention given them that is received by the cows the farmer would soon learn to know more about his flocks and understand how to correct his mistakes. He quickly discovers the reason when a cow fails to give her quota of milk, because he observes her daily, knows what she receives and the conditions under which she is kept. It is not so much the knowledge of cattle as observation of daily occurrences that enables him to keep his cows up to the requirements. The same applies to the fowls. Observe them; learn to know what is necessary to success with poultry, and success will follow as a natural result.

## The Funny Side of Life.

**ANOTHER VARIATION.**  
Parodies of this remind us—  
Written in a million ranzas—  
We can leave some stuff behind us  
To be copied in exchanges.  
—Chicago Journal.

**SUPERFLUOUS.**  
"Do you tell your wife when you have done wrong?"  
"No; she tells me."—Houston (Texas) Post.

**HOW SHE DOES IT.**  
"Does your wife earn her own pin money?"  
"Yes, but I wish she wouldn't. It costs me \$2 for every one she earns."  
—Chicago Record-Herald.

**REAL THING.**  
Simkins—"Enpeck insists that his wife has a sunny disposition."  
Timkins—"Well, I guess that's right."  
Simkins—"What's the explanation?"  
Timkins—"She certainly makes it hot for him at times."—Chicago News.

**TEMPTATION.**  
"A man in your position is subjected to many temptations, isn't he?"  
"Yes," answered Senator Sorghum. "Every now and then he feels like letting his sympathies get the better of him and missing chances to make money. But the only thing to do is to be firm."—Washington Star.

### THE SECRET OUT.



Husband—"Confound it! I don't know what's the matter with this razor. It's awful dull."

Wife—"Dull! Why, when I opened that can of sardines with it this morning it was so sharp that I nearly cut my finger off."—New York American.

**TRUSTFUL.**  
"A woman will not esteem a man whom she cannot trust," said the moralist.  
"Yes," answered Mr. Meekin, "and I am delighted to note that Henrietta always trusts me to put the cat out and fix the furnace fire and lock the basement door and do a lot of things."—Washington Star.

### A FATAL DUEL.

"That last French duel was a very sad affair."  
"How so?"  
"It terminated fatally."  
"Really?"  
"Yes. The morning was so chilly that one of the combatants caught cold and died three weeks later of pneumonia."—Chicago Post.

### JARS AT THE ZOO.

Mrs. Monkey—"I wish you'd drop in and see our milkman, Charlie, and give him a good calling down."

Mr. Monkey—"Why, what's the matter now?"

Mrs. Monkey—"I told him to leave three coconuts this morning, and he only left two, and one of them was only half full."—Judge.

### FORCE OF HABIT.

"Your church organist is fine, but the effect of his execution is marred somewhat by the words he mumbles to himself during the music. Why doesn't he quit it?"

"He can't, old man. He was a passenger brakeman in his youth, and has never quite recovered from the habit of calling out the stops!"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

### HE KNEW THEM.

Pastor's Wife—"John, you made a big mistake by engaging such a good-looking, talented young man to take your place while on your vacation. They may prefer to keep him when you return."

Pastor (serenely)—"Never fear, my dear. All the women will be so jealous of each other and the men will be so jealous of the women that they will be glad to get rid of him long before I return."—Indianapolis Sentinel.

### THE RETORT COURTEOUS.

Mrs. Bizzey—"I notice you're cleaning house, Mrs. Newcome, and I was afraid you might be tempted to throw your rubbish out on the back lot. I just wanted to say that we don't do that sort of thing here."

Mrs. Newcome—"I burned all our rubbish in the furnace this morning, Mrs. Bizzey, including an old book on 'Etiquette' which I might have saved for you."—Philadelphia Press.



### CLEANING LIGHT CLOTH.

Wraps of white or pale-colored cloth such as are so fashionable at present for dress occasions, soon succumb to the influences of our dirt-filled atmosphere. Every touch leaves its mark on them. One of the best ways to care for these delicate coats is to have constantly on the toilet table a bottle of strong borax water, say a teaspoonful of borax to a pint of water, dissolved while the water is hot.

When the first suggestion of soil appears, rub it with a fresh piece of cotton dipped in borax water. If the spot is difficult to get out, use two or three fresh pieces of cotton, so that the soil is not scattered, and rub briskly to keep the water from soaking into the cloth.

This treatment will remove dust, mud spots and also perspiration stains. It is wise to treat a spot as soon as possible after it is acquired, as every hour makes any soil in cloth more difficult to get out. While cleaning thoroughly, borax water does not leave the ugly circle of stain that gasoline so often does.

### USEFUL JAVELLE WATER.

Every laundress should use javelle water. A small teacup of the fluid added to a boiler of water will assist materially in keeping the clothes white and will not injure them in the least. The most obstinate stains of fruit, tea, coffee, etc., on the tablecloths and napkins will usually succumb to an application of one part of javelle water diluted with four parts of soft water. If the stained article is soaked in this fluid for several hours and then thoroughly washed and rinsed, it will usually come out perfectly clean and white. Only white goods can be treated in this way, however, as javelle water is likely to fade colors.

It is made as follows: Place four pounds of bicarbonate of soda in a large granite or porcelain lined pan, and pour over it four quarts of hot water. Stir with a stick until the soda has dissolved, add a pound of chloride of lime, and stir until this also has dissolved. Allow the liquid to cool in the pan, strain the clear portion through thin cloth into wide mouthed bottles or jugs and cork tightly for use.

The part that contains the sediment may also be bottled and used for scrubbing sinks, tables and anything to which grease is liable to adhere.

As an aid to the housewife in doing washing quickly and easily this fluid is unsurpassed. The quantity which may be made from ingredients given may be lessened by dividing by two or four as the case may be. One-fourth of the items named will be enough to last for three or four washings.—New York Daily News.



### HOUSEHOLD RECIPES.

**Florentine Cream.**—To the juice of three lemons add one and one-half cups of sugar; soak half a box of gelatine in half a cup of cold water half an hour; stir over the fire until dissolved; add this to the sugar and lemon juice; when cold add three cups of whipped cream; mould and serve cold.

**Cream Dumplings For Soup.**—Mix two tablespoonfuls of thick soup cream with the yolks of two eggs; add one cupful of sifted flour and a little salt; when this is well worked together add the whites of the eggs beaten stiff, shape into small dumplings with a teaspoon; boil five minutes in a clear soup.

**Rice Flummery.**—Boil four and a half ounces of rice flour in half a cupful of milk, stirring all the time; when quite thick add four tablespoonfuls of granulated sugar and half a teaspoonful of almond flavoring; turn into a mould; when cold turn it out on a platter and serve with cream or fruit sauce.

**Cranberry Cream.**—Soak two tablespoonfuls of gelatine in one-third cup of cold water; wash one pint of cranberries, put them in an agate pan with two tablespoonfuls of water; then rub them through a strainer; add to the pulp one cupful of sugar, return to the fire and when boiling add the soaked gelatine; pour into a pan and stand this pan into another of cold water; stir until it begins to thicken; add one pint of whipped cream.

**Kidney Omelet.**—Chop cold boiled kidney quite fine; make an omelet with three eggs beaten; three tablespoonfuls of milk, a pinch of salt and a little pepper; put one teaspoonful of butter in a frying pan; when melted turn in the mixture; let cook slowly until crust forms on the bottom; in the meantime sprinkle over the omelet the chopped kidney and a little parsley; fold in half; turn out on a hot platter; spread with butter and garnish with parsley.

The Southern Pacific will use electric cars on its street railway lines in Oakland, Cal., instead of steam.